

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Thornage Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 6.30pm at All Saints Church, Thornage.

Present: Cllrs Dan Earp (Chairman), Dany Pearce (Vice Chair), Teresa Anderson and Nigel Watchorn, Kerry Harris (Clerk), NCC Cllr Michael Dalby, 4 residents.

24/25 Election of Chairman – Sign Declaration of Office

Dan Earp was voted by All to be Chairman on a Proposal by Cllr Watchorn and Seconded by Cllr Anderson. He signed the Declaration of Office.

24/26 Election of Vice Chair – Sign Declaration of Office

Dany Pearce was voted by All to be Vice-Chair on a Proposal by Cllr Watchorn and Seconded by Cllr Anderson. She signed the Declaration of Office.

24/27 To welcome those present to the meeting

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked Cllrs for the privilege of being Chair for another year

24/28. To consider apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted by All for Kate Dickson and Peter Hammond. NCC Cllr Brown and Rev'd Trudie Morris had also sent their apologies.

24/29. To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations

There were none.

24/30. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th March

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March were unanimously Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn.

24/31. Matters Arising

There were none.

24/32. Open Forum for Public Participation

(i) NCC Cllr Dalby

Cllr Dalby gave his report in person: it had been a quiet month. The new Chair of the Council is Tom Fitzpatric. On 31st May there will be a meeting regarding starting a School of Dentistry in Norwich associated with UEA. This will not be a short term fix as it takes 5 years to train a dentist, but should lead to improvement in the local area as graduates often stay where they train. He will keep the PC updated. He reported on the Footbridge that NCC Officers had said that it was not cost effective to do a major redesign on the bridge, but rather to facilitate minor repairs. He will report back concerns from residents in Stody that the bridge is no longer wide enough to push a buggy or bicycle over it and the bends make it difficult to navigate.

NNDC Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown had sent the Year End 2023-24 District Council Performance Report for information. It commented on the 2023-27 Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan for NNDC, the new District Local Plan which is currently at the examination stage; the Heritage Action Zone Improvement Grant and associated works; investment in new public toilets in North Walsham, Fakenham, Sheringham and Holt; the 2019 pledge to plant a tree for every resident (110,000 trees) has been surpassed by 5,000; an update on the Nutrient Neutrality issues which are in progress; investment in Temporary Accommodation; action on Coastwise, jointly funded by the Government and NNDC and the results of the independent Local Government Peer Review of NNDC which concludes that NNDC performs well in caring and delivering for residents, giving a 4 out of 5 rating.

(ii) Friends of Thornage – Dany Pearce

Cllr Pearce said that the next event for Friends of Thornage is a Garden Party on 9th June. Regular coffee mornings are also being introduced in the Church and these are being successful.

Church – Jerry Pearce

A new body has been elected to run the Church. They will be working closely with Friends of Thornage to make use of the Church. They need to find a sustainable income stream as the Church currently has a £3thousand deficit. They are cutting avoidable costs and will be using volunteers for tasks around the Church, such as grass cutting, the organist and cleaning the Church, also minor maintenance such as clearing blocked drains and gutters to resolve the damp. They will be investigating grants for larger projects, particularly improvements to heating, power and the paths. They are investigating selling the Daffodil Field.

Thornage Hall – Farm Manager

Thornage Hall is celebrating 100 years of biodynamics, which the Hall has been practicing for the past 40 years. Cllr Earp will put a sign on the Noticeboard advertising the event on 5th June at the Alpaco field which all villagers are invited to – they would need an idea of numbers attending in advance. Thornage Hall are looking for opportunities for tenants so may be able to help with tasks around the village.

(iii) Opportunity for Members of the Public to raise questions or concerns.

There were no comments from members of the public.

24/33. Chair's Report

Cllr Earp reported on the resignation of Paul Hendrick. He thanked him for his involvement with the Parish Council and in particular the work he has done with the Volunteer Group..

24/34. Clerk's report

The Clerk had nothing to add to the items in the agenda.

24/34. Finance and Governance Matters

(i) To Approve the Internal Audit undertaken for y/e 31st March 2024

Recommendations from the internal Audit Report were reviewed. The Clerk will add the £0.79 to the next VAT return and Standing Orders had been reviewed and updated at the March meeting. Councillors will consider the recommendation on personal emails which will be discussed at a later meeting with Data Protection. The Chair and Vice-Chair and Cllr Hammond already have separate email addresses. The Internal Audit was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.

(ii) To Approve the signing of the Exemption Certificate for 2023/24

The Exemption Certificate was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Watchorn and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.

(iii) To Approve the Governance Statement for 2023/24 (AGAR Form 2)

The Governance Statement was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn.

(iv) To Approve the Accounting Statement for 2023/24 (AGAR Form 2)

The Accounting Statement was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn.

(v) To Note the dates of the Notice of Public Rights

The dates for the Period of Electors Rights will be from 10th June until 19th July.

(vi) To Approve the Cashbook and Payments list

The balance in the Barclays account is £5,143.13, balanced to the 30th April bank statement.

Receipts: £2,500.00 – First half Precept payment from NNDC

Payments: Countrystyle Recycling £33.00 (Bottlebank); Mrs D. Dann £35.00 (Internal Audit);

Payments will be paid via the bank by Cllrs Pearce and Anderson.

Paul Hendrick will be removed from the signatories list.

This was Approved by all on a Proposal by Cllr Watchorn and seconded by Cllr Earp.

(vii) To Approve the Asset Register

The Asset Register was reviewed and Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.

(viii) To Approve the annual Insurance quotation

The Insurance quotation was £214.00 from Zurich Municipal, which was the same cost as last year.

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn.

24/35 Planning Matters

(i) To receive an update on current planning applications: PF/24/0481 The Mill, The Street, Thornage – single storey extension: Approved

(ii) To Approve the PC response on new Planning Matters
There were none.

NCC Cllr Dalby left the meeting.

24/36. Highways Matters

(i) To receive an update on the SAM2

A resident had analysed the data from the SAM2 and confirmed that speeding was as much an issue in Little Thornage as it was in Thornage, however the volume of traffic was about 10% of that on the main road. It was Agreed that the SAM2 should be used in Little Thornage proportionately to the problem, which would probably indicate the SAM2 would be positioned in Little Thornage about once each year. It was noted that the SAM2 would be better positioned nearer to the junction, but this would need to be a SAM2 operated by Letheringsett Parish.

The value of the SAM2 as a deterrent as well as a detector of speed was discussed.

(ii) To receive an update and Approve any action on Thornage/Hunworth footbridge

NCC Cllr Dalby is following this up as noted earlier..

24/37 To receive an update on Green Spaces in the Parish and Approve any action

Cllr Watchorn is giving a full update in the Annual Parish Meeting to follow and all suggestions will be carried forward to the next PC meeting.

24/38. To receive an update on the Volunteers Group

This item was deferred to the next meeting..

24/39 To Approve any action on Defibrillator training

Cllr Pearce will contact St Johns to see what they can offer; the Clerk will also report on any success that Thursford PC have in locating a trainer.

24/40 To receive an update on the Postbox

No update has been received.

24/41. To Approve the publication of the next Newsletter

Content to include confirmation of the Chair and Vice Chair, a report on the Annual Parish Meeting, the Village Green update and Biodiversity and the Telecoms digital switchover. Contributions to the Clerk in time for an end of June publication.

24/42. To note any Correspondence

Duncan Baker Telecoms webinar	Coastwise survey
Bin collection changes	Holt police Local Beat Manager
Environment Agency River Glaven maintenance	B1354 Road closure
NCC Beck Farm Footbridge update	NCC Cllr Dalby April report
NPTS Training	NCC Location of Grit Bins
Rural Services Bulletin: Teleswitch	

24/43. To set the rota for the Bottle and Paper Banks

June – Cllr Watchorn; July – Cllr Anderson; August – Cllr Pearce; September Cllr Watchorn

24/44. Any Other Business (for information only)

There was none.

24/45 Dates for future meetings;

Autumn PC meeting – Wednesday 11th September 6.30pm

24/46. To close the meeting: The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Signed

Date: